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Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ EGY: GNANDERSON: DD
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APPROVED BY NEA: JJSISCO
NEA/ EGY: MSTERNER
NEA: ALATHERTON, JR
EUR/ WE: CKJOHNSON
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WH: HSAUNDERS
S/ S: O S. E. FRY
---------- 108233
O R 190440 Z MAY 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT CAIRO
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
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EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF
SUBJECT: EC-9 EXPERTS MEETING
REF: BRUSSELS 2618 (NOTAL)

1. ITALIAN IDEA FOR POSSIBLE WESTERN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT AS A WAY OF INVOLVING EGYPT MORE CLOSELY WITH THE WEST, HELPING EGYPT OUT OF ITS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, AND THEREBY AT SAME TIME ENCOURAGING MOVEMENT TOWARD AN ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT WERE DISCUSSED BETWEEN SECRETARY AND FONMIN MEDICI ON APRIL 17 DURING LATTER' S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. SECRETARY SUBSEQUENTLY WROTE TO MEDICI ON THIS SUBJECT ON MAY 7. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO ITALIANS THAT OUR PRIMARY AIM IS TO SEE GENUINE NEGOTIATING PROCESS START UP, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAEL AND THAT WE DO NOT BELIEVE ARAB- ISRAEL SOLUTION CAN BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY OUTSIDE PARTIES. WE HAVE ALSO INDICATED TO THEM THAT WE QUESTION PRACTICALITY OF CONCEPT OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AS MEANS OF GETTING NEGOTIATIONS STARTED.

2. WE BELIEVE POLITICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL OVER WHERE NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT LEAD REMAIN PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE TO EGYPTIAN WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE. IN OUR VIEW, AN OFFER OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PER SE WOULD NOT PROVIDE (NOR WOULD IT BE LIKELY TO LEAD TO) THE NEEDED POLITICAL FORMULA WHICH WOULD PERMIT EGYPT TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS WITH CONFIDENCE. AT THE SAME TIME, WE RECOGNIZE THAT, IN THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES (I. E. ONCE NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDER

WAY), ECONOMIC HELP FOR EGYPT MIGHT BE AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT IN ENCOURAGING THAT COUNTRY TOWARD FLEXIBILITY ON THE ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE RESOLVED.

3. SECY' S LETTER OF MAY 7 TO MEDICI STATED, AFTER STRESSING NEED FOR POLITICAL FORMULA, THAT USG WOULD NEVERTHELESS PERCEIVE NO PROBLEM IF ITALIAN GOVT WISHED TO PURSUE ITS IDEAS ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF WESTERN

COMMUNITY.

4. WE HAVE SOUGHT THUS FAR NEITHER TO ENCOURAGE NOR DISCOURAGE ITALIANS IN THEIR EFFORTS. YOU MAY DRAW ON ABOVE BACKGROUND IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH BELGIANS, BUT YOU SHOULD AVOID GIVING IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE WORKING AGAINST ITALIAN PROPOSALS BEHIND THE SCENES. YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR

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TO BELGIANS AND OTHERS AS APPROPRIATE THAT OUR VIEW REMAINS
THAT WHAT IS NEEDED IS FOR BOTH SIDES TO FIND BASIS FOR
BEGINNING A NEGOTIATING PROCESS TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES
FOR ACCOMMODATION ON POLITICAL ISSUES WHICH NEED TO BE
RESOLVED.

5. REPORT WHICH BELGIANS RECEIVED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON
EXPLICITLY ENDORSED A PARTICULAR PROPOSAL ALONG THESE
LINES IS INACCURATE. THE USG IS NEITHER ENCOURAGING NOR
DISCOURAGING THE PLAN. RUSH

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TAGS: PFOR, XF, EEC
To: ANKARA
BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
HELSINKI
LISBON
LONDON

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MOSCOW
TEL AVIV
VIENNA
Type: TE
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